

Job Specification

Inspirer, Casual / Zero Hours Contract - Winchester Science Centre & Planetarium

Post Title:	Inspirer, Casual / Zero Hours Contract
Hourly rate:	Age 16-20 £6.85, Age 21-24 £7.40, Age 25+ £7.85
Line Manager:	Head of Planetarium
Working times:	Hours to be agreed depending on business requirements and your availability*

We are looking for casual science communication staff to deliver a range of activities on weekends, school holidays and during other special events throughout the year. This role offers a casual contract where hours will be agreed depending on organisational requirements and your availability.

This recruitment has no advertised deadline, rather it will be managed on a rolling basis, with interviews arranged as early as possible depending on the rate and quality of applications received. Please apply at your earliest convenience.

1. The Role

At the front line of the organisation, Inspirers directly deliver our core charitable aim of sparking curiosity. These roles are the explainers, putting the challenge into interacting with the Centres exhibits, the guides through a universe of possibilities and the enthusiastic role models who may lead to a lifetime of discovery.

Delivery is core to the role and Inspirers can expect to spend the majority of their time interacting with audiences of all ages and abilities, delivering live science shows, guiding students through challenges in workshops, running planetarium shows, constructing understanding in the Invention Studio and roaming the Centre to explain the science behind exhibits.

No two days will be the same, with Inspirers donning lab coats to explosively demonstrate energy transfer one day, jump suits and rocket launches to introduce Newtonian physics another and even giving close encounters with giant insects to showcase adaptation and evolution.

Situated in the STEM department, the role is to be jointly line managed by the Head of Planetarium and the Head of Curiosity. Direct supervision on a day to day basis will be by the Curiosity Officers.

The two main parts of this role are:

- To deliver inspiring content to school and public audiences both in-house and potentially in schools/other venues
- To support the wider team and Centre with any school/public related events/activities

In addition to these two main tasks, the role may also include other communication activities for a variety of audiences such as presenting at festivals and also general support of activities in the Science Centre as required to meet its charitable aims. This might include a variety of tasks, including but not restricted to resetting rooms, cleaning or controlling lighting for shows, depending on the skills of the applicant.

2. Job Description

Purpose of the job:

To deliver inspiring and educational content to school and family audiences during normal opening hours throughout the year.

Delivery work to include:

- Deliver our range of exciting workshops and science shows linked to a wide range of the curriculum with a focus on problem based learning to students predominantly KS1 – KS3
- During holiday time delivery of live science shows and busking activities
- Working with low level explosives, high voltage equipment, invertebrates and other dramatic tools. (Full training will be provided)
- Set up/down and present public planetarium shows aimed at families with children aged 4yr+.
- Set up/down and present public planetarium shows for other audiences as required
- Presenting as suggested by wider team and within the lesson plan/framework for each session, ensuring accurate scientific information is given and that language is appropriate and inclusive.
- Ensuring sessions are set up as early as possible, start and end on time, and that the space is reset promptly to allow the continuation of programmes.
- Being available to occasionally answer questions after the session, being careful to give accurate and up to date information, with confidence to say 'I don't know' if unsure.
- Share skills and experience with other members of the Learning and Participation team and/or attend training, to improve general practice within the team. As well as engaging with an internal review process and refining practice in response to supervisors (Officers) and manager feedback.

Other work to include:

- Delivering hands-on activities within the Invention Studio, especially during busy periods.
- Supporting other activities that may be taking place. These may vary especially on special theme days, but would generally involve support of interactive science activities. This may include helping external contributors, controlling lighting for shows, or monitoring areas to satisfy fire regulations if necessary. This may also include out of hours work supporting youth group nights and other evening events.

- Acting in an 'Enabler' role by moving through the Hands-on Exhibition to help visitors feel welcome and support them in any way possible, including in their use of the activities. This to include tidying / resetting activities to make them attractive and educational to new users.
- Ensuring all activities are delivered within method statements and risk assessments, to ensure safety and coherence of offer within the expectations of managers. To report any concerns about safety or scientific accuracy to the Duty Manager and follow their instruction of how to proceed.
- As the Science Centre staff is small, all staff support other teams if this is required. This might include tasks such as helping to reset rooms, clean or admin support.

3. Person Specification:

It is essential that you have:

- Charisma, enthusiasm and a desire to share your enthusiasm for science with others
- Comfortable presenting content to groups (in ranges from one to one, to large groups)
- Experience of effectively working within a fast paced, adaptable team based environment
- A professional, clear, confident and exciting style when presenting information, with the ability to vary style as appropriate to the show/audience.
- A genuine interest in science and astronomy (no formal qualifications required, only enthusiasm)
- An appreciation of the limits of your scientific knowledge and the ability to quickly learn new concepts.
- Diligence and attention to detail in resetting equipment to better support the wider team.
- Willingness to reflect and refine delivery in response to both visitor and wider team feedback

The following attributes are desirable for this role but not essential:

- Educator training/experience
- Experience of presenting planetarium or science shows to groups
- Advanced science knowledge/qualifications

Other skills that you may wish to highlight:

- Technical skills (especially A/V or computer programming)
- Drama/theatre experience or voice skills
- Storytelling skills (written and/or performed)